

What is claimed is:

[Claim 1] A push-push latch attached to a storage compartment having a door that moves between an opened position and a closed position, said push-push latch comprising:

a track member defining a generally heart-shaped track having a generally V-shaped notch;

a guide member that moves within said track to facilitate positioning said compartment door in the closed position when said guide member rests in the V-shaped notch; wherein said track member is molded from a polymer and includes an integrated retaining section adjacent said V-shaped notch and a channel connecting said heart-shaped track and said retaining section; and

wherein when the compartment door is in the closed position and the guide member is positioned in the V-shaped notch and when subjected to a force greater than a predetermined value said guide member is forced through said channel and locked into said retaining section.

[Claim 2] The push-push latch of claim 1, wherein said channel walls flex out when the guide member is subjected to a force greater than a predetermined force value allowing said guide member through to said retaining section.

[Claim 3] The push-push latch of claim 1 further comprising a connector attached to the compartment door.

[Claim 4] The push-push latch of claim 3, wherein said track member is attached to the compartment body and said guide member engages said connector.

[Claim 5] The push-push latch of claim 3, wherein said track member engages said connector and said guide member is attached to the compartment body.

[Claim 6] The push-push latch of claim 1, wherein said heart-shaped track further includes a pathway A, a pathway B, a first corner, a pathway C, a pathway D, a second corner, and a pathway E, wherein said pathway A is adjacent said pathway B and said pathway E, said pathway B is adjacent said first corner, said first corner is adjacent said pathway C, said pathway C is adjacent said v-shaped notch, said V-shaped notch is adjacent said pathway D, said pathway D is adjacent said second corner, and said second corner is adjacent pathway E.

[Claim 7] The push-push latch of claim 6 wherein when the compartment door is in the opened position, said guide member is positioned in said pathway A.

[Claim 8] The push-push latch of claim 6, wherein when the compartment door is moving from the opened position into the closed position, said guide member travels from said pathway A into and along the length of said pathway B, around said first

corner, into and along the length of said pathway C, and coming to a rest in said V-shaped notch.

[Claim 9] The push-push latch of claim 6 wherein when the compartment door is moving from the closed position into the opened position, said guide member travels from said V-shaped notch, into and along the length of said pathway D, around said second corner, into and along the length of said pathway E, and into said pathway A.

[Claim 10] The push-push latch of claim 6 wherein when the compartment door is in the closed position and subjected to a force greater than a predetermined value, said guide member moves from said V-shaped notch into said channel and comes to a rest in said retaining section.

[Claim 11] The push-push latch of claim 1, wherein said V-shaped notch includes a wall that assists in retaining said guide member in the closed position.

[Claim 12] The push-push latch of claim 1, wherein said track member defines an axis and said guide member moves radially with respect to the axis to travel within said heart-shaped track.

[Claim 13] The push-push latch of claim 1, wherein said storage compartment is in an automobile.

[Claim 14] The push-push latch of claim 1, wherein said heart-shaped track further includes a first pathway, a second pathway, a first corner, a third pathway, a second pathway, a first corner, a third pathway, a fourth pathway, a second corner, and a fifth pathway, wherein said first pathway is adjacent said second pathway and said fifth pathway, said second pathway is adjacent said first corner, said first corner is adjacent said third pathway, said third pathway is adjacent said V-shaped notch, said V-shaped notch is adjacent said fourth pathway, said fourth pathway is adjacent said second corner, and said second corner is adjacent said fifth pathway.

[Claim 15] A storage compartment comprising:

a compartment body;

a compartment door that is attached to said compartment body and moves between a closed position and an opened position;

a push-push latch that is attached to said compartment body and engages said compartment door, said push-push latch having a track member defining a generally heart-shaped track having a generally V-shaped notch, a guide member that moves within said track to facilitate positioning said compartment door in the closed position when said guide member rests in the V-shaped notch, wherein said track member is molded from a polymer and includes an integrated retaining section adjacent said V-shaped notch and a channel connecting said heart-shaped track and said retaining section; and

wherein when the compartment door is in the closed position and the guide member is positioned in the V-shaped notch and when subjected to a force greater than a

predetermined value said guide member is forced through said channel and locked into said retaining section.

[Claim 16] The storage compartment of claim 15 wherein said channel walls flex out when the guide member is subjected to a force greater than a predetermined force value allowing said guide member through to said retaining section.

[Claim 17] The storage compartment of claim 15 wherein said track member defines an axis and said guide member moves radially with respect to the axis to travel within said heart-shaped track.

[Claim 18] The storage compartment of claim 15 wherein said heart-shaped track further includes a first pathway, a second pathway, a first corner, a third pathway, a fourth pathway, a second corner, and a fifth pathway, wherein said first pathway is adjacent said second pathway and said fifth pathway, said second pathway is adjacent said first corner, said first corner is adjacent said third pathway, said third pathway is adjacent said V-shaped notch, said V-shaped notch is adjacent said fourth pathway, said fourth pathway is adjacent said second corner, and said second corner is adjacent said fifth pathway.

[Claim 19] A method of locking a compartment door in a closed position when subjected to an excessive force, wherein the compartment door moves between an opened and a closed position via a push-push latch made from a polymer and having a track member and a guide member, comprising the steps of:

- A) subjecting the door of the compartment to an excessive force;
- B) causing a guide member through a channel in a track member wherein the channel walls flex out allowing the guide member through; and
- C) retaining the guide member in an integrated retaining section when the channel walls flex in.

[Claim 20] The method of claim 19 further comprising manually removing the guide member from the retaining section.